

T-688
Rowena Harrison House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1898

Rowena A. H. Harrison purchased this North Talbot Street lot in 1898 for \$250 and financed the construction of the extant two-story, five-bay frame house that still carries the distinctive double story turned post porch. She held onto the house for twenty years and finally sold the property in 1918 for \$1700. With its relatively intact late nineteenth-century architectural features, this center hall, single-pile dwelling is one of the more distinctive Victorian structures on North Talbot Street.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-688

Magi No. 2106882604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ROWENA HARRISON HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 108 North Talbot Street not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <u>x</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>x</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u>x</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u>x</u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 398

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 599

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-688

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rowena Harrison house is located at 108 North Talbot Street in the northern commercial district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1898, the two-story, center hall frame dwelling is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with a combination of asbestos shingles and German siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Stretching across the entire front of the house is a two-story shed roofed porch supported on each floor by turned porch posts with sawn brackets. While the first floor handrail has been replaced the turned baluster railing on the second floor remains intact. The front entrance is marked by a partially glazed door that is framed by two-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Flanking the entrance are pairs of two-over-two sash windows. The second floor is detailed in a similar way with a center four-panel door opening onto the porch and two-over-two sash windows to each side. Piercing the roof are two chimney stacks. The north stack is a partially stuccoed brick chimney, while the south stack has been rebuilt in concrete block.

The gable ends are detailed similarly with two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors with smaller sash illuminating the attic. The eaves are extended and are finished with a return at the base of the roof. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service ell.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-688

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing on North Talbot Street the Rowena Harrison house is one of the more distinctive late nineteenth-century dwellings with its intact double story porch supported by turned posts. The exterior of the house has changed little aside from a partial covering of asbestos shingles. Somewhat larger and more notable than the houses in the immediate neighborhood, this structure is a prominent architectural focal point for the intersection of North Talbot and Willow streets.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Rowena A. H. Harrison purchased this North Talbot street lot in 1898 for \$250, and sold the property twenty years later for \$1700. (see 129/277 and 179/281) The late nineteenth-century architectural features, the absence of any building on the lot in 1877, and the substantial increase in the value of the lot between 1898 and 1920 suggest that Rowena Harrison financed the building of this house shortly after her purchase. The property has been held by a number of different owners since she sold the lot in 1920.

YEAR: 1964 VOL: 398 PAGE: 599

FROM: John E. Peters and Alverta G. Peters PRICE:

TO: Doris M. Worm

NOTES The property here conveyed is quite involved and does not include the small one-story shop attached on left side of the main house. See the attached plat (1941, 1/66).

Conveyed to Agnes Roberts, Edna M. Peters, and John M. Peters by Lee Gillis 1953, 309/273.

To Lee Gillis by Agnes Roberts 1953, 309/270.

(1951, 293/60 Agnes Roberts to Edward Peters is the part of the lot on Fremont Street - see plat)

To Agnes Roberts by Grace 1941, 250/361

YEAR: 1941 VOL: 250 PAGE: 361

FROM: Robert A. Grace and Rosa G. Grace PRICE:

TO: Agnes Roberts

NOTES There is a bank mortgage for \$1832 outstanding. The property transferred is that shown on plat 1941, 1/166.

"Being a part of lot 1 and all of lot 2 conveyed to Grace by Carey 1939, 245/159

YEAR: 1939 VOL: 245 PAGE: 159

FROM: W. Thomas Carey and Margaret I. Carey PRICE:

TO: Robert A. Grace and Rosa G. Grace

NOTES Two parcels. #1. Begins at the NE corner of Clarence Waters (T-687) and runs N with Talbot Street 59 feet; then W 100 feet to the heirs of P.T. Hambleton; S with Hambleton 45 feet 6 inches to the NW corner of Clarence Waters; then E with Waters to the beginning.

#2. is a lot, not same configuration as that on the plat, fronting on "West Street" (same as Fremont).

Conveyed to Carey by the Talbot Bank of Easton 1935, 234/559

YEAR: 1935 VOL: 234 PAGE: 559

FROM: Talbot Bank of Easton PRICE:

TO: W. Thomas Carey and Margaret I. Carey

NOTES This is Parcel 1. Begins at the SE corner of Rebecca Hambleton West (should be NE corner) runs N 59 feet; then W 100 feet to the heirs of P.T. Hambleton; then S 45 feet 6 inches; then E to the beginning.

YEAR: 1918 VOL: 179 PAGE: 281

FROM: Rowena A. H. Harrison PRICE: \$1700

TO: J. Harry McQuay

NOTES The lot is 59 feet on Talbot Street by 100 feet deep.

1918, 179/282 is a mortgage from McQuay to Harrison for \$1000.

Conveyed to Rowena A. H. Harrison by John W. Baker 1998, 129/277.

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 105 PAGE: 438

FROM: Charles E. Shanahan, trustee PRICE: \$200

TO: John W. Baker of W

NOTES Sale was made by decree of the Circuit Court 22 Sept 1886 in the case Fairbank vs Fairbank to force sale of the estate of Josiah Fairbank. This lot is described as an "unimproved lot on Talbot Street" and was bought by John W. Baker for \$200

YEAR: 1898 VOL: 129 PAGE: 277

FROM: John W. Baker and Louisa E. Baker PRICE: \$250

TO: Rowena A. H. Harrison

NOTES Begins Rebecca Hambleton West. Is 59 feet on Talbot Street by 100 feet deep.

Part of the lot conveyed to John W. Baker by Charles E. Shanahan, trustee 1887, 105/438.

Several deeds missing here, but above is most significant!

Year: 1856 Vol: 67 Page: 264

From: Charles Robinson, trustee Price: \$2345

To: Philemon Hambleton

Notes: All that part of Elliott's Lot and Joseph's Lot sold by Samuel Harrison to Samuel Hambleton, 1832, 50/322. Begins at the place where a cedar post stood by the road into Church Neck set down as a division between Thomas Harrison and James Braddock; run with the road E 100P to Main Road; then therewith N 26 W 22P; then W 90P to what was the divisional line between Thomas Harrison and James Braddock; then with that line to the beginning. 11 3/4 acres except three small building lots sold off by William Jones.

Year: 1832 Vol: 50 Page: 322

From: Samuel Harrison Price: \$475.50

To: Samuel Hambleton

Notes: All that part of Elliott's Lot and Joseph's Lot sold by Robert Richardson and Thomas Harrison to Thomas L Haddaway, 1795, 26/322. Afterwards sold by Samuel Harrison, administrator of Thomas L Haddaway. Begins at former cedar post, runs with Church Neck road E 100P to Main Road, with the main road, N 26 W 22P, then W 90P to the Harrison-Braddock line, then to the beginning. 11 3/4 acres.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO. 1877

T-688

H. C. DODSON'S ADD.

DODSON AVE.

Dodson & White's
Brick Yard

Res.
J. S. Hambleton

S. Aldridge

H. A. Young

CHERRY ST.

CHERRY ST.

CHERRY ST.

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ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Nails, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

IS DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Bailor, Shop at St. Michael's.

ES BROWN, Real Estate Agent and Collector of off.

SPA. Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Invaluable Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES SETH, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

J. NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Cottons, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House." Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

GEORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

E. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

SEPH HERGERSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

EVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

ARRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freightier of Grain of all kinds to any point.

THOMAS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Cottons, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

SEMI. HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.

S. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

Col. M. S. Schell
Col. S. Schell
A.P.

J.D. Foster

Dr. C. Gibson

Lambdon

JOHN MILLERS ADDITION

AVE.

CHEW

Dr. C. Gibson



T-688
ROWENA HARRISON HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942



T-688

ROWENA HARRISON HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southeast elevation

12/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/M D Historical Trust